

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
December 1, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

WIB Members Present

Toni Carter
Carrie Cisek
Judy Donohue
Marie Ellis
Michael Fondungallah
Jennifer Germain (Alt. Torgerson)
Larry Gilbertson
Trixie Golberg
Butch Howard
Chris Kondo
Karin McCabe
Sean Mullan
Tim O'Brien
Sheila Olson
Kate Probert
Joe Richburg
Mary Russell
Danielle Taylor
Tracy Wilson
Anivuin Xiong

Members Absent

Mike Chanaka-EA
Clarence Hightower-EA
Chad Kulas-EA
James McClean-EA
Don Mullin-EA
Chris Tolbert-EA
Dee Torgerson-EA
Ramona Wilson-EA
Jim Wroblewski
Mike Zipko

Staff/Guests Present

Virginia Arthur, Metropolitan State
Bridgett Backman, Workforce
Solutions
Karyn Berg, Workforce Solutions
Patricia Brady, Workforce Solutions
Justin Hollis, Ramsey County
Neng Lee, DEED
Rebecca Milbrandt, WIB Staff
Greg Mellas, Metro State
Tim O'Neill, DEED
Heather Worthington, Ramsey County
Carol Zierman, Ramsey County

Arthur welcomed the WIB to Metropolitan State University. She shared information about the University's programs and student population. Arthur noted that the goals of the WIB and Metro State align in that both work to improve the lives of those in the local community.

Call to Order

Chair Butch Howard called the meeting to order at 2:44 p.m. All those in attendance introduced themselves.

Announcements

Howard read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the Workforce Investment Board of Ramsey County meeting. We especially welcome our partners, presenters and guests and thank you for joining us today.
- Judy Donohue will be retiring from Lutheran Social Services and the WIB in January. Judy has been on the WIB since 2014. Thank you for your service to the residents of Ramsey County.
- Thank you to Ginny Arthur, Greg Mellas and the staff of Metropolitan State University for hosting today's meeting.
- Save the Date: The Winter Meeting of the Governor's Workforce Development Board and the Minnesota Workforce Council Association will take place on Wednesday, December 14th beginning at 9:00AM in the Red Cap Room at the Union Depot in Saint Paul. Additional details will be sent soon.
- Plans for the new affiliate site in North St. Paul are well underway. It is expected that the staff offices and resource room will be open for business the first week of February 2017.
- The next WIB meeting is February 2, 2:30-4:30 at Goodwill-Easter Seals. We appreciate you making this meeting a priority.

Approve Consent Agenda**December Agenda****Meeting Minutes****2017 WIB Meeting Schedule****2016-2017 WIB Strategic Plan**

Motion (O'Brien/McCabe) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approve WIB Financial Report

Motion (Richburg/Mullan) to approve the September and October 2016 financial reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously 18-0. Olson was not in the room at the time of the vote.

Proposed 2017 WIB Budget

Motion (Donohue/Fondungallah) to approve the 2017 WIB Budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously 18-0. Olson was not in the room at the time of the vote.

Regional and Local Labor Market Update

O'Neill provided an overview of national, state and local employment data. Of particular note for Ramsey County:

- 9,908 people are actively looking for work
 - 100,000 job vacancies exist
 - Employment is currently 6,200 jobs below 2006 levels
 - Largest job growth sectors: healthcare, scientific/tech services, hospitality, and construction
 - Shrinking sectors: admin/support services, finance/insurance and transportation/warehousing
 - Distinguishing industries in Ramsey County: printing, management of companies, museums and computer/electronics manufacturing
 - Trends indicate that healthcare/social assistance, education, and manufacturing will continue to grow
-

Community Impact

Hollis shared a presentation on how the WIB and Ramsey County can advance their strategic priorities together. He and Worthington identified several key factors influencing economic development in Ramsey County:

- Racial equity – Ramsey County is the most diverse county in Minnesota
 - Succession planning – Ramsey County has the youngest population in Minnesota
 - Land use policy – goods producing jobs are being replaced by lower wage, service providing jobs
 - Technology – access to online resources and data is increasing
 - Preparing K-12 students for future success – emphasis on STEM and the trades
 - Transit – providing access to jobs
 - Identifying emerging industries
 - Aligning work with higher education – business needs a skilled labor force
-

Discussion

With the information from the presentations in mind, WIB members discussed and provided responses to the following question: *Given the critical nature of the economic environment for many of the residents we serve, what can the WIB and Ramsey County do together to advance each other's strategic priorities?*

- Promote the synergy and assets found within Ramsey County to attract business and residents, especially the younger population
- The education system is not connected to workforce. The WIB should work closer with K-12 education partners on STEM curriculum
- Industries need to do a better job of marketing and reaching out to K-12 education – construction offers high paying jobs right out of school. Need to give people who like to work with their hands more options

- Business startups often stem from people who started in the trades
- Support minority and woman owned businesses
- The trades provide opportunities for women and minorities
- Talk more about occupations and less about sectors. Approach high school counselors to share information about jobs and alternative education options. Counselors didn't go to trade schools themselves so many don't know about these career paths
- Advocate for more middle and high school counselors
- Support the return of trades curriculum in the high schools and leverage the resources available in the technical schools for this training
- Launch a marketing campaign to inform parents and youth about opportunities in government and the trades
- Actively engage youth that don't have parental support

Worthington suggested that the WIB select one or two initiatives to focus on initially and then scale up on what is successful. She encouraged the WIB to consider engaging school boards and local elected bodies on policy priorities.

Next Steps:

- Worthington will attend the next WIB meeting to continue the conversation
- Continue to develop a policy agenda and prepare to engage the legislature, school boards and local government entities

Other

Fondungallah shared information about an affirmative action audit. He will be sending an email to WIB members with a request for input.

Adjourn

Motion (O'Brien/Fondungallah) to adjourn. Motion carried at 4:41 pm.

The next WIB meeting is February 2, 2017, 2:30-4:30, at Goodwill/Easter Seals--553 Fairview Ave. N.